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"My COVID-19 Experience"

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The first week of finding out about COVID-19 was a very stressful week. We were in our Finals week for our Winter quarter. Taking all our finals online was a little stressful and overwhelming because we had to make sure we were able to take it electronically as well as keep in touch with our professors to make sure we were doing it correctly.

The hardest part of when everything went online and we weren't allowed to see anyone was not be able to participate in collegiate sports.

I am on the Women's Soccer Team here at Cal State and finding out we couldn't practice or see each other was really hard due to soccer being an escape for me. I was really sad that was not allowed to see my friends when Spring quarter came around. The classes were hard because all professors and students were trying to learn how to do the online stuff.

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SUBJECT:

DATE: / /

My Spring season got cancelled and we did not know how long we were going to be away. I also have a job and trying to balance my health, online school and work was a real struggle for me mentally.

I felt like professors were assigning a lot more work online than they would've if we were actually in

person. Trying to stay positive while being trapped at home and being on a computer all day was really hard. Things started to get

tougher as time went on. When the LA riots started, I was really worried about my family and myself.

I was really worried about my grades after a while because I

started to lose motivation to do homework. As time went on

and the days for everything opening back up were being pushed back

it started to take a toll on me. I

was getting annoyed of doing the same thing every day and not being able to go anywhere.

SUBJECT:

DATE: / /

Days turned into weeks and weeks turned into months. As apart of this I started to ask friends what they did to keep themselves busy during this pandemic as well as what their biggest struggles are. Most of my family members said it gave them a chance to spend more time with their children. They also said after so long it started to get hard because so much food was being eaten as well as there was a lot of things to clean up from the kids playing. The responses my friends gave were that they were really bummed that their sport was cancelled. Another similar response was that it was hard to get the motivation to continue to work out and try to stay in shape just in case we were allowed to participate again. I agreed with their response because it really is a struggle to get the motivation

SUBJECT:

DATE: / /

to get up and go for a run or try to get touches on the ball. The only reason I would actually get up and workout was because my sister would workout with me. The Fall semester came around and things just got tougher. I found out that my concentration went away when we went from quarters to semesters. With that being said, I had to choose another concentration which required me to take more classes. This meant that I had to graduate in Fall 2021 in order to fit in the classes. The only upside to this was that I might be able to get another season for soccer. Being told that we were not going to be playing this Fall and that I could've already played my last season of soccer was a really hard pill to swallow. My family tries to be supportive about it but it's really hard to let go of something that you have been doing your entire life.

SUBJECT:

DATE: / /

I don't think this pandemic will ever end. It has almost been a full year and people don't realize that this keeps getting worse. People continue to go to places they aren't supposed to. They don't seem to take this serious and this is why we're going back on a lockdown. Things get a chance to open but then they have to close again. I just want everything to open back up so I can try to play soccer again. I truly miss being out on the soccer field and competing against other teams. Nothing is more of an escape and nothing would help more during a time like this than soccer. As this year comes to an end and another year starts, I hope people can start to realize that we can put a stop to the spread as long as we stay inside and follow all the rules to keep ourselves and our families safe.